



Alameda County Sheriff's Office

Gregory J. Ahern, Sheriff / Coroner
Coroner's Bureau, 2901 Peralta Oaks Ct, Oakland, CA 94605
(510) 382-3000 / (510) 382-3033 (fax)

Coroner Investigator's Report

CALL INFO	NAME OF DECEASED (LAST, FIRST MIDDLE) BONARDI, John Jeffrey			TENTATIVE ID <input type="checkbox"/> UNIDENTIFIED <input type="checkbox"/>		CASE NUMBER 2015-03669	
	REPORTED BY K. Hoodye #2190		REPORTED BY PHONE NO. (510) 667-3646		REPORTING AGENCY Alameda County Sheriff's Office-ETS		REFERENCE NUMBER 15-021753
	INVESTIGATOR Jason Henshaw		CALL DATE AND TIME 12/10/2015 22:20		CASE TYPE Removal Case		
	DATE AND TIME OF DEATH 12/10/2015 21:24		DATE OF BIRTH 5/5/1967	AGE 48 Years	GENDER Male	RACE	MARITAL STATUS Never Married
DECEDENT	HGT 72	WGT 261	EYE COLOR Brown	HAIR COLOR Black	OCCUPATION Supervisor		EMPLOYER
	Preliminary Summary [REDACTED]						
DEATH	LOCATION OF DEATH Santa Rita Jail						LOD TYPE Other
	ADDRESS (STREET, CITY, STATE, ZIP) 5325 Broder Blvd Dublin CA 94568						COUNTY Alameda
	Manner Suicide			Death Certificate Signed By: A. Gogna, Deputy Coroner			
	Cause A HANGING						Interval Minutes
	Cause B						Interval
	Cause C						Interval
	Cause D						Interval
Other Significant Conditions		none					
NOTIFICATION	LEGAL NEXT OF KIN [REDACTED]			RELATIONSHIP [REDACTED]		TELEPHONE NO. [REDACTED]	
	NOTIFIED BY			METHOD		DATE AND TIME	
	IDENTIFICATION METHOD			DATE AND TIME			
INCIDENT	LOCATION OF INCIDENT County Jail						AT WORK <input type="checkbox"/>
	ADDRESS (STREET, CITY, STATE, ZIP) 5325 Broder Blvd Dublin CA 94568						COUNTY Alameda
	INVESTIGATING AGENCY Alameda County Sheriff's Office						DATE AND TIME OF INCIDENT 12/10/2015 20:55
DISP	INV AGENCY PHONE NUMBER			OFFICER K. Hoodye			
	FUNERAL HOME Tri City Cremation			BODY RELEASED TO FUNERAL HOME ON 12/14/2015 16:15			
	EXAM BY Judy Melinek						



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Investigator Narrative

Decedent: BONARDI, John Jeffrey
Case Number: 2015-03669
Investigator: Jason Henshaw

First Call Information:

On December 10, 2015, about 2210 hours, I (Henshaw) received a telephone call from Deputy K. Hoodye, reporting the suicide death of inmate John Bonardi (PFN [REDACTED]) at Santa Rita Jail in Dublin. Deputy Hoodye told me, about 2050 hours, he found Bonardi in a cell, with a bed sheet wrapped around his neck and the other end attached to the top bunk. Deputy Hoodye cut Bonardi down and requested "code 3" medical response. The Alameda County Fire Department responded and performed life saving measures which were unsuccessful and death was pronounced, at 2124 hours. Deputy K. Hoodye said he last saw Bonardi alive at 2042 hours. (JDH1886)

Medical Summary:

While on scene, I (Henshaw) spoke with the Santa Rita Watch Lieutenant, V. Fox, who told me he had talked with the on call Criminal Justice Mental Health representative and was told Bonardi did not have any previous suicide attempts or suicidal tendencies. (JDH1886)

Description of the Death/ Injury Scene:

Bonardi was pronounced dead at Santa Rita Jail, located at 5325 Broder Blvd in Dublin. He was in Housing Unit #23, which was classified as minimum security/protective custody. Bonardi was the sole occupant of Cell A34. Bonardi was found by Deputy Hoodye, with a bed sheet wrapped around his neck and the other end attached to the top bunk. (JDH1886)

Body Identification:

I (Henshaw) searched the Consolidated Records Information Management System (CRIMS) and located a record for Bonardi. I compared the photograph and general descriptors from CRIMS to the decedent and they appeared to be a match. (JDH1886)

On December 12, 2015, I (Henshaw) received a fax from Central Identification Bureau (CIB) for a fingerprint comparison of John Jeffrey Bonardi. The comparison of fingerprints from the decedent matched the fingerprints on file for Personal File Number (PFN) [REDACTED] associated with the name John Jeffrey Bonardi on file with the Alameda County Sheriff's Office. (JDH1886)

Next of Kin Investigation:

On Friday, December 11, 2015, Deputy Bordi searched for Bonardi's family in Accurint, (a search tool used in locating family) and located a [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] who were listed as relatives. About 0715 hours, Deputy Bordi and I (Lorenzana) arrived at [REDACTED] to make the notification to [REDACTED] but no one answered the door. A card was left at the door so he could contact us.



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We then went to [REDACTED] residence located at [REDACTED]. We met [REDACTED] who identified herself as Bonardi's sister. [REDACTED] said Bonardi was never married and his parents were deceased. He did have 2 adult children, [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] said [REDACTED] had Autism and would not be able to handle arrangements. [REDACTED] was his step-daughter whom he raised since she was a child and she considered Bonardi to be her father, and Bonardi considered [REDACTED] as his daughter. [REDACTED] provided [REDACTED] contact information but asked that we not call her, as she wanted to notify her of the death. We explained the Coroner's involvement to [REDACTED] as well as the need to contact a mortuary as soon as possible. (RL1702)

Other Agency Reports:

Alameda County Sheriff's Office Deputy K. Hoodye wrote report #15-021753, documenting the incident. I received the report, reviewed it and placed a copy in the case file. The information from the report was accurate with the information already provided to me. (JDH1886)

Property and Evidence:

I (Henshaw) issued Coroner's receipt #36337 to Deputy K. Hoodye for Bonardi's body and personal property. (JDH1886)

Coroners Fees:

There are body removal and body preparation fees totaling \$321 associated with this case.

On December 28, 2015, all Coroner's fees were paid in full. (JDH1886)

Investigative Details:

On December 10, 2015, about 2308 hours, Deputy Unubun and I (Henshaw) arrived at Santa Rita Jail, Housing Unit 23. We were met by Deputy K. Hoodye who led us to Cell A34, where Bonardi was located. Bonardi was classified as a minimum security protective custody inmate and was the only person assigned to Cell A34. I saw Bonardi lying in a supine position on the floor of the cell with his feet towards the door. Bonardi's cell was untidy, but I did not see any signs of a struggle. I did a limited external visual exam and noticed Bonardi's face and chest area were purple in color. Rigor and lividity were not present. I noticed slight abrasions on Bonardi's neck, but no other visible trauma was noticed. On the top bunk, I saw a bed sheet tied to a blanket. The blanket was draped behind the top bunk with the sheet hanging in front of the bunk. Deputy Hoodye told me he found Bonardi in a seated position on the floor, with his back resting on the lower bunk. The sheet from the top bunk was wrapped around Bonardi's neck and was cut when he was found unresponsive. I saw the cut section of sheet under Bonardi's body. I searched the cell and was unable to locate a letter of intent. During Deputy Hoodye's investigation, he found that Bonardi had told other inmates [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] Deputy Unubun took digital photographs of the scene and Bonardi was prepared for transport to the Coroner's Bureau.

On December 11, 2015, about 0049 hours, Deputy Unubun and I (Henshaw) returned to the Coroner's Bureau and processed Bonardi into the morgue, which included intake photographs. The scene photographs and intake photographs were later downloaded onto a CD-R and placed in the case file. (JDH1886)



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On December 11, 2015, about 1926 hours, I (Henshaw) spoke with Santa Rita Classification Technician J. Hall on the telephone. Technician Hall told me Bonardi was classified as a protective custody inmate [REDACTED] Bonardi's classification file noted he was [REDACTED]

(JDH1886)

On December 11, 2015, Coroner's Pathologist Dr. J. Melinek performed an autopsy of Bonardi and determined the cause of death to be hanging.

On December 16, 2015, Central Valley Toxicology performed a medical screen of Bonardi's peripheral blood sample. The screen was negative for common acidic, neutral or basic drugs. No ethyl alcohol detected.

Findings:

On January 1, 2016, I (Henshaw) reviewed this case to determine a manner of death. Based on my investigation, the autopsy protocol and the police report, I find the manner of this death to be a suicide. Bonardi was the only inmate assigned to his cell and was found with a bed sheet wrapped around his neck. This finding was also supported by the cause of death as given by Dr. J. Melinek, hanging. Bonardi also made statements to other inmates, [REDACTED] (JDH1886)

Supervisor Review:

On Wednesday, January 13, 2016, I (Sgt. Baron) reviewed this case and found it to be complete. I concur with the findings and approve this case for closure. (HB#2017)

Alameda County Sheriff's Office

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2901 Peralta Oaks Court, 2nd Floor, Oakland, CA 94605-5319



Gregory J. Ahern, Sheriff

Director of Emergency Services
Coroner - Marshal

M E M O R A N D U M

DATE: December 11, 2015
FROM: Judy Melinek, M.D.
TO: Case File 2015-03669
SUBJECT: AUTOPSY PROTOCOL

Autopsy performed upon the body of John Jeffrey Bonardi at the Coroner's Bureau, 2901 Peralta Oaks Court, Oakland, California, on December 11, 2015, at 9:30 a.m.

AUTOPSY FINDINGS

- I. HANGING:
 - A. FACIAL PLETHORA
 - B. SCLERAL AND CONJUNCTIVAL PETECHIAE
 - C. TONGUE CONTUSIONS, CONSISTENT WITH BITE MARKS.
- II. HYPERTENSIVE ARTERIOSCLEROTIC CARDIOVASCULAR DISEASE:
 - A. 450 GRAM HEART WITH BIVENTRICULAR HYPERTROPHY (LEFT VENTRICLE 1.6 CM, RIGHT VENTRICLE 0.5 CM)
 - B. 50% RIGHT CORONARY ARTERY ATHEROSCLEROSIS.
- III. PULMONARY ANTHRACOSIS, SLIGHT.
 - A. CHRONIC SUBSTANCE ABUSE WITH MICRONODULAR CIRRHOSIS AND HEPATOMEGALY (2,650 GRAMS).
- IV. INCIDENTAL ACCESSORY SPLEEN.
- V. OBESITY (BODY MASS INDEX = 35.4 LBS/IN²).

CAUSE OF DEATH: HANGING.

cc: EMS
District Attorney
Investigations Bureau
ACSO-Detention and Corrections Div.

Sheriff-Coroner
Alameda County

Body of JOHN JEFFREY BONARDI

1 **PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION:** The body is identified by a Coroner's
2 label affixed at the left great toe, and a jail identifying
3 bracelet at the left wrist. When first viewed, the decedent is
4 clad in a green T-shirt (cut); red pants (cut at the cuffs);
5 brown boxer underpants; and two gray socks. Accompanying the
6 body are torn segments of a blue sheet, measuring 30 inches and
7 50 inches in length. When bunched up, these can be compressed
8 to approximately 1 to 1-1/2 inches in diameter. These are
9 submitted into evidence.

10

11 **EXTERNAL EXAMINATION:** The body is of a well developed, well
12 nourished, obese (BMI = 35.4 lbs/in²) Hispanic man whose
13 appearance is consistent with the reported age of 48 years. The
14 body is cold (refrigerated). Rigor mortis is marked and
15 symmetric. Unfixed purple livor mortis extends over the
16 posterior surfaces of the body, and the head and neck above the
17 clavicles, except in areas exposed to pressure. There is
18 prominent facial plethora.

19

20 The face is otherwise unremarkable without visible injury. The
21 head is atraumatic, symmetric, and normocephalic. The scalp is
22 intact and atraumatic. The scalp hair is brown and slightly

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Body of JOHN JEFFREY BONARDI

23 gray, straight and measures approximately 1-1/4 inches in length
24 over the crown. The eyelids are atraumatic, intact, and
25 unremarkable. The irides are brown. The pupils are bilaterally
26 equal at 0.4 cm. The corneas are translucent. The sclerae and
27 conjunctivae are remarkable for left lateral scleral petechiae
28 and right-lower-eyelid conjunctival petechiae. There is marked
29 congestion. No petechial hemorrhages are identified on the
30 facial skin or oral mucosa. The nose and ears are not unusual.
31 The decedent is clean-shaven. The teeth are natural and in good
32 condition.

33
34 The neck is unremarkable. The trachea is palpable and midline.
35 The thorax is well developed and symmetrical with an increased
36 anterior-posterior diameter. The abdomen is obese. The anus
37 and back are unremarkable. The penis is circumcised. The
38 testes are bilaterally descended in the scrotum. The upper and
39 lower extremities are well developed and symmetrical, without
40 absence of digits. There is no clubbing or edema. There are
41 brown, dry macules on the skin of both shins, consistent with
42 venous stasis dermatitis.

43

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Body of JOHN JEFFREY BONARDI

44 **EVIDENCE OF MEDICAL THERAPY:** Evidence of acute medical therapy
45 includes four electrocardiogram patches on the chest and calves;
46 defibrillator patches on the chest; a curved plastic airway; and
47 a left tibial intraosseous catheter. A 1-1/4 inch curvilinear
48 tan abrasion is on the midline chest, consistent with injury
49 from resuscitation.

50

51 **IDENTIFYING MARKS AND SCARS:** A monochromatic professional
52 tattoo depicting two banners and a shield possibly inscribed
53 "Colton" "B" "1-25-11" is on the upper outer left arm. A
54 1-1/2 by 1/2 inch hyperpigmented patch is at the back left
55 thigh. A round 1/2-inch well-healed scar is at the outer right
56 abdomen, and another round 1/2-inch well-healed scar is at the
57 inner lower right abdomen, near the pelvis. A monochromatic
58 professional tattoo inscribed "Tara" is on the upper left chest.
59 A monochromatic professional tattoo inscribed "TARA" is on the
60 back left ring finger. Additional identifying marks and scars
61 are not readily identified.

62

63 **EVIDENCE OF INJURY:** The neck is examined and a ligature furrow
64 is not distinctly identified, but there are areas of creasing of
65 the skin associated with an absence of lividity at either side

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Body of JOHN JEFFREY BONARDI

66 of the neck, with approximately 1 inch between them. There are
67 no petechiae associated with these creases. There is also a
68 skin crease at the back with absence of lividity at the skin
69 crease. On internal examination there are no fractures of the
70 hyoid bone, thyroid or cricoid cartilages, or vertebrae, and
71 there is no hemorrhage into the soft tissue. The strap muscles
72 of the neck are dissected in layered fashion. There are no
73 petechial hemorrhages of the larynx, pharynx, or nasopharynx.
74 There is relative facial plethora. The tongue does not protrude
75 through the teeth; but on cut section, and visible on the
76 surface, there are a 1.5 cm hemorrhage at the right lateral
77 tongue and a 0.5 cm hemorrhage at the left lateral tongue.

78
79 **Blunt Trauma:** Two punctate red abrasions, measuring 1/8 and
80 1/16 inch, are at the lower right shin.

81
82 There is no additional evidence of injury.

83
84 **INTERNAL EXAMINATION:** The body is opened in the usual manner
85 with a Y-shaped incision. No adhesions or abnormal collections
86 of fluid are in any of the body cavities. All body organs are
87 in normal and anatomic position. The serous surfaces are smooth

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Body of JOHN JEFFREY BONARDI

88 and glistening. The subcutaneous fat measures approximately
89 1-1/2 inches in maximum thickness at the level of the umbilicus.
90 There is diffuse visceral congestion. There is abundant fat
91 surrounding the organs.

92

93 **HEAD AND CENTRAL NERVOUS SYSTEM:** Reflection of the scalp shows
94 the usual scattered reflection petechiae. The calvarium is
95 intact. The brain weighs 1,530 grams. The dura mater and falx
96 cerebri are unremarkable and the leptomeninges are thin and
97 delicate. The cerebral hemispheres are symmetrical. The
98 structures at the base of the brain, including cranial nerves
99 and blood vessels, are free of abnormality.

100

101 Sections through the cerebral hemispheres reveal no lesions
102 within the cortex, subcortical white matter or deep parenchyma
103 of either hemisphere. The cerebral ventricles are of normal
104 caliber. Sections through the brain stem and cerebellum are
105 unremarkable. The first portion of the spinal cord, viewed
106 through the foramen magnum, is unremarkable.

107

108 **NECK:** The neck is dissected after the thoracoabdominal and
109 cranial contents are removed. Examination of the soft tissues

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Body of JOHN JEFFREY BONARDI

110 of the neck, including large vessels and strap muscles, reveals
111 no abnormalities. The superficial and deep muscles of the neck
112 are firm, red-brown, intact, and unremarkable without hemorrhage
113 or laceration. The hyoid bone and larynx are intact. The
114 tongue is otherwise normal.

115

116 **CARDIOVASCULAR SYSTEM:** The heart weighs 450 grams. The
117 epicardial surfaces are smooth, glistening, and unremarkable.
118 The coronary arteries arise normally and follow the distribution
119 of a right dominant pattern with 50% proximal focal
120 atherosclerosis of the right coronary artery and no other
121 significant atherosclerosis. The chambers demonstrate
122 biventricular hypertrophy, and the valves bear the usual
123 size/position relationship, are morphologically normal and are
124 unremarkable. The valves are free of vegetations. The
125 myocardium is dark red-brown, firm, and unremarkable. The
126 atrial and ventricular septa are intact and the septum and free
127 walls are free of muscular bulges. There is no focal or
128 regional fibrosis, erythema, pallor or softening. The left
129 ventricle measures 1.6 cm and the right ventricle measures
130 0.5 cm in thickness as measured 1 cm below the respective
131 atrioventricular valve annulus. The interventricular septum

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Body of JOHN JEFFREY BONARDI

132 measures 1.6 cm in thickness. The aorta and its major branches
133 arise normally and follow the usual course with no significant
134 atherosclerosis. The orifices of the major aortic vascular
135 branches are patent. The vena cava and its major tributaries
136 return to the heart in the usual distribution and are
137 unremarkable.

138

139 **RESPIRATORY SYSTEM:** The right and left lungs weigh 800 grams,
140 each. The upper and lower airways are patent and the mucosal
141 surfaces are smooth, yellow-tan, and contain thin foam. The
142 pleural surfaces are smooth, glistening, and remarkable for
143 slight anthracotic pigmentation of the subpleural lymphatics.
144 The pulmonary parenchyma is congested and the cut surfaces exude
145 marked amounts of blood and frothy fluid. There are no masses,
146 hemorrhages, consolidations, obstructions or destructive
147 emphysema. The pulmonary arteries are normally developed and
148 patent. There is no saddle embolus on *in situ* examination of
149 the pulmonary trunk.

150

151 **HEPATOBIILIARY SYSTEM:** The liver weighs 2,650 grams. The
152 hepatic capsule is intact, irregular and glistening, covering a
153 micronodular, fibrotic reddish brown parenchyma. The

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Body of JOHN JEFFREY BONARDI

154 gallbladder contains approximately 35 ml of green viscid bile
155 without stones. The extrahepatic biliary tree appears to be
156 patent.

157
158 **HEMATOPOIETIC SYSTEM:** The spleen weighs 400 grams and has a
159 1.5 cm accessory spleen. Both have smooth intact capsules
160 covering red-purple, moderately firm parenchyma. The splenic
161 white pulp is grossly unremarkable. The regional lymph nodes
162 appear normal. The bone marrow (rib) is red-purple.

163
164 **ENDOCRINE SYSTEM:** The pituitary gland is intact, normally
165 developed, and is unremarkable without laceration, hemorrhage,
166 or mass lesion. The thyroid gland is symmetric and unremarkable
167 with a firm, red-brown, granular parenchyma and no cyst,
168 hemorrhage, fibrosis, or mass lesion. The adrenal glands are
169 normally situated and have soft, yellow cortices and soft, gray-
170 brown medullae. The pancreas has a soft, tan parenchyma with a
171 normal lobular architecture and no saponification, pseudocyst,
172 neoplasm, fibrosis, hemorrhage, or mineralization.

173
174 **GASTROINTESTINAL SYSTEM:** The esophagus is lined by gray-white,
175 smooth mucosa. The gastric mucosa is arranged in the usual

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Alameda County

Body of JOHN JEFFREY BONARDI

176 rugal folds, and the lumen contains approximately 200 ml of
177 brown fluid. There are no pill fragments or foreign bodies
178 identified. The small and large bowels are unremarkable. The
179 appendix is unremarkable. The colon contains soft, green stool.

180

181 **GENITOURINARY SYSTEM:** The right and left kidneys weigh 250 and
182 260 grams, respectively. The renal capsules are smooth, thin,
183 semitransparent, and strip with ease from the underlying,
184 smooth, red-brown, firm, cortical surfaces. The cortices are of
185 normal thickness and well-delineated from the medullary
186 pyramids. The calyces, pelves, and ureters are unremarkable.
187 The urinary bladder contains approximately 20 ml of translucent
188 yellow urine. The mucosa is gray-tan and smooth. The
189 bilaterally descended testes are unremarkable. The prostate is
190 unremarkable.

191

192 **MUSCULOSKELETAL SYSTEM:** The skeleton is well developed and
193 without deformity or osteoporosis. The vertebrae, clavicles,
194 sternum, ribs, and pelvis are without fracture. The supporting
195 musculature and soft tissues are not unusual. The firm, red-
196 brown muscles are well hydrated and free of focal lesions. The
197 cervical spinal column is stable on internal palpation.

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Body of JOHN JEFFREY BONARDI

198

199 **Spec. to Pathology:** Portions of all major organs are fixed in
200 formalin and retained.
201

202 **Spec. to Histology:** None.
203


204 **Spec. to Toxicology:** Peripheral blood, central (heart, right
205 ventricle) blood, bile, brain, gastric
206 contents, liver, urine and vitreous humor.
207

208 **Physician Present:** Dr. Judy Melinek.
209

210 **Forensic Techs:** C'Mone Falls and Victoria Gebelein.
211

212 **Evidence:** Blood spot on filter paper for DNA.
213

214

215  1/7/16
216 Judy Melinek, M.D.
217
218 JM/cah



CENTRAL VALLEY
TOXICOLOGY, INC.

TOXICOLOGY NUMBER: CVT-15-13787

Case Name:

Bonardi,

John
16 ml peripheral blood labeled "Bonardi, John; 2015-03669; 12/11/15"

Specimen Description:

Delivered by Tricor

Date 14-Dec-15

Received by Bill Posey

Date 14-Dec-15

Request: Complete Drug Screen

Agency Case # 2015-03669

Requesting Agency

Alameda Co. Coroner's Office
Attn: Acct's Payable
480 4th Street
Oakland CA 94607

Report To

Alameda Co. Coroner's Office
Attn: Dr. Melinek
2901 Peralta Oaks Ct., 2nd Floor
Oakland CA 94605

Specimen: Peripheral Blood Sample

RESULTS

Complete Drug Screen: No common acidic, neutral or basic drugs detected.
No Ethyl Alcohol detected.

entered SL 12/23/15

B. L. Posey

December 16, 2015

B.L. POSEY
S.N. KIMBLE
Directors

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